

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A bottom-supported jack-up rig has a hollow ring mat with a central opening for accommodating a lower portion of a hull nested therein when the rig is in transit. The ring mat has a predetermined surface footprint sufficient to provide stability to the rig when embedded in the sea bottom. The mat buoyancy helps support the hull and the legs in a floating position when the rig is in transit, while allowing lowering of the mat to the sea bottom without assistance of a ballasting/de-ballasting means.